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ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

2020 State Rte 146 E, Vienna, IL – 62995

Sat – 5:30 pm Sun - 10:00 a.m.

Weekdays – Wed 6:30 pm & Fri 12 pm

Parish Council Chair: Steve Pobst

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH

Mulberry Street, Stonefort, IL – 62987

Sunday - 8:00 a.m.

& First Saturday – 8:30 am

Parish Council Chair: Mary Treat

Trustees: Myron Cole, Stan Treat

KEYS In the [Gospel](#) Reading, Christ tells Peter that Peter is the rock on which Christ will found his church. And, Jesus promises, the gates of hell will not prevail against this rock or against the church built on it.

This is a comforting thought, isn't it? In the darkness of the world, there is something—the apostle Peter, the Church—that evil cannot wreck!

The problem is that it so often looks as if the gates of hell *have* prevailed against Christ's church.

The Church is not a collection of the sinless, and it was not meant to be. Actually, the problem begins with Peter. The apostle, who was supposed to be the rock of the Church, betrayed the Lord he loved in his Lord's worst need. A betrayal like that seems to have something hellish about it, doesn't it?

As far as that goes, how does Peter differ from Judas? Judas betrayed Christ too, of course. In fact, the Gospel of John says that Satan entered into Judas before he went to the Pharisees to conspire with them to get Jesus ([John 13:27](#)). There is certainly something hellish about the treachery of Judas if Satan entered into him.

So why not think that the gates of hell prevailed against Peter too, in *his* betrayal of Christ? What is left of Jesus' promise that the gates of Hell will not prevail against Peter or against Christ's Church?

But notice that there *is* a difference between Judas and Peter.

You might think the difference is that Peter repented and Judas didn't. But there you would be mistaken. The Gospel of Matthew makes it clear that Judas repented, too ([Matthew 27:3](#)).

So, here is the real difference between them. When Judas saw the sin of his betrayal for what it was, he killed himself. He threw himself away as hopeless, as irredeemable. But Peter came back to Christ. He cleaved to the Lord he loved even in the face of his own betrayal of him.

And that is why Peter is the rock on which the Church is founded. The Church is not a collection of the sinless, and it was not meant to be. The Church was founded on Peter, who loved, and sinned, and held on to the Lord anyway. The gates of Hell cannot prevail against this kind of love.

This *is* a deeply comforting thought.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 35 **21st Sunday of the Year, August 27, 2017**
CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

| | | | | | |
|-----|------|----|----------|-----|--------------------|
| Sun | Aug | 27 | 8:00 am | SFD | James M McCabe Fam |
| | | | 10:00 am | SP | For the Parish |
| Tue | Aug | 29 | 9, 11 am | | DOC Masses |
| Wed | Aug | 30 | 6:30 pm | SP | General Intention |
| Fri | Sept | 1 | 12:00 pm | SP | Fr Gerry Miriani |
| Sat | Sept | 2 | 8:30 am | SFD | Reparation of Sin |
| | | | 5:30 pm | SP | General Intention |
| Sun | Sept | 3 | 8:00 am | SFD | Rev Vito Lepardo |
| | | | 10:00 am | SP | For the Parish |

St Paul, Vienna

Birthdays:

Aug 27 Michael Retz
 Aug 30 Ethan Artis

Sun, Aug 27, 10 am
Server: A Webb, J Bayles
Lector: Steve Pobst
Gifts: Marc Palmer Family
Ushers: D Zmuda, C Zmuda
 P Widowski, M McMahan
E. Minister B Palmer
 S. Nelson, A. Dueker
Greeter: Sandy Belske

Sun, Sept 3, 10 am
Server: R Slife, A Webb
Lector: Sarah Nelson
Gifts: Steve, Katie Pobst
Ushers: F. Dueker, M Slife,
 S Widowski, D Bishop
E. Minister S. Moore
 C. Webb, B. Bishop
Greeter: Cathy Kruep

Sun, Sept 10, 10 am
Server: B Bertran, J Bayles
Lector: Keith Felcyn
Gifts: Bill, Billie Porter
Ushers: M Palmer, Jon Slife
 J. Bergmann, Joe Nelson
E. Minister P Kalicki
 L Stoerger, Madonna Slife
Greeter: H, X Gruszczczyk

St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

Sun, Aug 27: 8 am
Server: Brenda Morse
Lector: Mary Treat
Gifts: R Drone, D Parks
Usher: Arnold Morse
E. Min: Christine Deaton

Sun, Sept 3: 8:00 am
Server: Cecilia Parks
Lector: Christine Deaton
Gifts: M Moore, M Cole
Usher Stan Treat
E. Min: Brenda Morse

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sat Aug 26 St Paul Mass.....5:30 pm
 Sun Aug 27 St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 St Paul Mass.....10:00 am
 Tue Aug 29 DOC Masses at Shawnee, Vienna.....9 am, 11 am
 RCIA Information Session..hall.....7:00 pm
 Wed Aug 30 Weekday Mass...5:30 pm
 Fri Sept 1 Weekday Mass.....12 pm
 Sat Sept 2 First Saturday Mass and devotion at SFD.8:30 am
 St Paul Mass...(last Saturday of season)....5:30 pm
 Sun Sept 3 St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 St Paul Mass.....10:00 am
 First Sunday Social at SP.....11:00 am



DRAW DOWN TICKETS for the October 14 fundraiser are available after masses or from parishioners Steve & Peggy Widowski, Matt & Rhi Slife, Marsha & Joe Nelson, Madonna Slife and Dolly Hopkins. Cost \$100 (may be shared by up six people). Early bird drawing for \$100 is September 17th. Grand prize of \$4,000. All 110 ticket owners win a prize.

SP PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES St Paul Parish Council minutes from Aug 23 Mt are available in the bulletin rack. If you missed it last Sunday, additional copies of the Joint Parish Council minutes from August 16th are available in the bulletin rack.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS SESSIONS will begin the third week of September for anyone who is interested in learning about the Catholic Faith with opportunity to participate fully in the Church. An information session will be held at St Paul Tues, Aug 29, 7 pm. If interested, contact the rectory office or Fr Tom.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION REGISTRATION The opening date for the Parish School of Religion classes is slightly over a month away (September 17th, 11 am). To provide books and supplies, registration forms for youth are being distributed at mass this weekend and additional copies are available in the bulletin rack. Forms due by August 27th.

SATURDAY MASS The concluding mass for the summer schedule (Memorial Day to Labor Day) will be next Saturday Sept 2.

PARISH PICNIC FOR ST PAUL AND ST FRANCIS DESALES The annual Parish Picnic is set for Sun, Sept 10, beginning 11 am. Grilled Pork Steaks with option of chicken or hot dog will be provided. Participants are invited to bring vegetable, salad or dessert. Various activities for adults and children will be offered following the dinner. See bulletin board to indicate type of covered dish.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Help discover the keys to your marriage by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend. The next weekend on September 22 -24, 2017. To register or for more information call 314-649-7317 or go online to www.stl-wwme.org.

VOCATION CORNER Jesus asks His apostles today about what his vocation is, and they point to Him as Lord. His vocation isn't an occupation. It isn't what keeps him busy or what He does day-to-day but it's about who He *is*. In the same way we are called, not simply to have careers or to occupy our days, but to be saints in our vocation for others.

WHO IS JESUS? There is Gospel discussion today on who the Messiah is. Peter finally says: Jesus, it is you; "you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus responds: You are right. Now, don't tell! Really? Keep it quiet? It was true then because Jesus was still on route to his destiny in Jerusalem. But today we are post-death-and-resurrection people. We not only know who Jesus is. We can now tell others about him. Who do I say Jesus is? · How is Jesus important for my life? · Who will I tell? How will I do it?

21st Sunday of the Year

Isaiah 22:15,19-23; Psalm 138; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20

Today's readings remind us that power exists for the good of the powerless.

The first reading contrasts the use and abuse of power. In the eighth century B.C., Isaiah is sent to inform Shebna, the prime minister, of his removal from office. Shebna has been a "disgrace to [his] master's house" (Isaiah 22:18). The prophet also speaks of Eliakim, one truly worthy of authority. Eliakim will discharge the duties of office as a "father" and will support King Hezekiah and his kingdom by paternal service.

Psalm 138 praises God for living up to God's name and covenant loyalty. "On the day I called, you answered me" (Psalm 138:3) captures this divine commitment. The most high Yahweh responds to the needs of the lowly.

Matthew combines the scene of Peter's confession with a post-Resurrection appearance of Jesus to Peter. The Lord calls Peter blessed because he perceives that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Because this faith comes from God, Jesus confers the grace of leadership on Peter. This impetuous disciple will be "Rock", an unshakable foundation for the Church (see Matthew 7:24-27). The keys (as in Isaiah) suggest power, the power of one who will focus not on self but on community.

All of us exercise some kind of power. Are we more Shebna or Eliakim? Are we intent upon making our power felt or making our power a service? Isaiah, the psalmist, and Matthew agree that to be in charge means to protect our charges.

-- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

God says he will fix Eliakim like a peg in a sure spot to be a place of honor for his family. This and other metaphors in the First Reading indicate God's support for him. What other qualities or virtues do you look for in Church leadership, besides having a solid faith?

Can you see your whole life as a way to worship God? Does your fear ever give way to love?

Discuss Pope Francis' Morning Meditation from February 20, 2014: We come to know Jesus "in the daily encounter with the Lord, each day. Through our victories and through our weaknesses."

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 22nd SUNDAY OF YEAR Jeremiah 20:7-9; Ps 63; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27.